

2156

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
PRESS CONFERENCE, WITH DETAILS ON DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. TROOPS IN KUWAIT
JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA
OCTOBER 14, 1994

SUBJECT: DEFENSE SECRETARY WILLIAM PERRY'S PRESS CONFERENCE
IN JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA, OCTOBER 14, 1994

BEGIN TEXT:

SECRETARY PERRY: GOOD MORNING. WE CAME ON THIS VISIT TO CONSULT WITH THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT AND TOMORROW WITH THE KUWAITI GOVERNMENT RELATIVE TO THE SITUATION IN IRAQ. LAST NIGHT WE HAD VERY GOOD MEETINGS WITH THE KING, WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT. ON THIS VISIT, WE WILL BE VISITING U.S. TROOPS AS WELL IN SAUDI ARABIA, IN KUWAIT AND OFFSHORE KUWAIT. IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, MANY MORE OF THESE FORCES WILL BE ARRIVING. IN PARTICULAR, WE HAD SEVERAL DAYS AGO DEPLOYED SHIPS THAT ARE BASED IN DIEGO GARCIA WHICH HAVE THE EQUIPMENT--PARTICULARLY HEAVY EQUIPMENT--FOR 18,000 MARINES AND FOR 6,000 MECHANIZED ARMY FORCES. THOSE SHIPS WILL BE ARRIVING IN THE AREA IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IN CONSEQUENCE YESTERDAY I ORDERED THE DEPLOYMENT, THE AIR DEPLOYMENT OF THE MARINE FORCES AND THE ARMY FORCES IN THE UNITED STATES. THEY WILL JOIN WITH THAT EQUIPMENT WHEN IT ARRIVES. AND SO OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, WE WILL SEE ANOTHER 20,000 GROUND COMBAT TROOPS ARRIVING IN THIS REGION. *

THIS DEPLOYMENT WILL CONTINUE DESPITE THE IRAQI ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY ARE WITHDRAWING THEIR FORCES. AS PRESIDENT CLINTON SAID IN HIS DISCUSSION OF THIS, WE ARE LOOKING, ON THE IRAQIS, WE ARE LOOKING FOR DEEDS AND NOT WORDS. MANY OF THE IRAQI TROOPS HAVE PULLED BACK FROM THE IMMEDIATE BORDER. BUT MORE

2

THAN A DIVISION OF REPUBLICAN GUARD FORCES REMAINS AT A LOCATION WELL SOUTH OF THE ORIGINAL LOCATIONS. WE HOPE THAT THIS IS A TEMPORARY, PERHAPS AN OVERNIGHT STAY BUT WE CANNOT ACCEPT THAT DEPLOYMENT, WHICH WE CONSIDER THREATENING AND DESTABILIZING. IF THE IRAQI FORCES RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL LOCATION, WE WILL TERMINATE OUR DEPLOYMENT WHEN IT IS COMPLETED. AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER WE WILL START PHASING REDEPLOYMENT BACK TO THE UNITED STATES. I REPEAT, IF THE IRAQIS RETURN TO THE ORIGINAL LOCATION. NO U.S. REDEPLOYMENT WILL BEGIN AS LONG AS THE IRAQI FORCES REMAIN IN A THREATENING OR DESTABILIZING POSITION. INDEED, IF THESE FORCES STAY IN THE SOUTH WE WILL EXPAND OUR CURRENT DEPLOYMENT PLANS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO DEAL WITH THIS THREAT. SENATOR WARNER, WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS?

SENATOR JOHN WARNER: THANK YOU, MR. SECRETARY. I HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF TRIPS TO THE GULF REGION DURING OPERATION DESERT STORM IN MY POSITION AT THAT TIME AS RANKING MEMBER OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE--I'M VERY PLEASED THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT IS WORKING WITH OUR COUNTRY AND OTHER COALITION MEMBERS MUCH LIKE THE PARTNERSHIP DURING THAT CRITICAL PERIOD OF TIME.

SECRETARY PERRY: I'D LIKE TO ADD ONE OTHER THING. I WAS PLEASED AND GRATIFIED AT THE VERY WARM RECEPTION BY SAUDI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LAST NIGHT, AND THE VERY PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS I HAD WITH THEM. I DID NOT FEEL FREE TO REVEAL THE CONTENTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, THEY WERE PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT WERE VERY WARM AND VERY PRODUCTIVE. AND WITH THAT WE'LL OPEN THE FIELD FOR QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU IF THE UNITED STATES IS HERE TO DECLARE ON [UNINTELLIGIBLE]...

SECRETARY: ANY ACTION SPECIFYING ANY PROHIBITIONS ON IRAQI DEPLOYMENTS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ WILL BE MADE AFTER FULL CONSULTATION WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COALITION, WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL, AND OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES IN THIS. AND THOSE CONSULTATIONS ARE ON THE WAY.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU DO IT IF THE UNITED NATIONS REFUSED TO PASS A RESOLUTION LEADING TO THAT KIND OF EXCLUSION?

SECRETARY: THE UNITED NATIONS ALREADY HAS A RESOLUTION DEMANDING THAT IRAQ NOT TAKE PROVOCATIVE HOSTILE ACTIONS AND WE CONSIDER THAT THE ACTIONS THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN IN THE LAST WEEK HAVE BEEN PROVOCATIVE AND HOSTILE.

QUESTION: YOU MENTIONED IN YOUR OPENING STATEMENT AN ADDITIONAL POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT SHOULD THE IRAQI FORCES REMAIN IN PLACE. CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT WHAT IS BEING CONTEMPLATED AND IS IT THE REPUBLIC GUARD UNITS IN PARTICULAR THAT ARE THE KEY INDICATORS THAT YOU ARE WATCHING.

SECRETARY: YES, THE REPUBLICAN GUARD UNITS ARE THE KEY INDICATORS WE ARE WATCHING ALTHOUGH WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THE OVERALL CORRELATION OF FORCES NOT JUST A PARTICULAR DIVISION OR TWO. THE ADDITIONAL MEASURES THAT I AM TALKING ABOUT JOHN IS THAT WE HAVE ON ALERT ADDITIONAL FORCES BESIDES THE ONES THAT I'VE ALREADY SENT DEPLOYMENT ORDERS ON, INCLUDING TWO ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND INCLUDING ADDITIONAL TACTICAL AIR.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, IS THERE ANY KIND OF A TIME LINE FOR THE IRAQI FORCES TO HAVE COMPLETELY BEEN REMOVED FROM THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY? IS THERE A DEADLINE INVOLVED HERE?

SECRETARY: I'M NOT GOING TO SPECIFY A DEADLINE AT THIS TIME BUT WE ARE LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE MOVING PROMPTLY OUT OF THOSE AREAS. WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE STOPPING AND MAKING CAMPS AT PARTICULAR SITES. AS LONG AS THE NORTHWARD MOVEMENT CONTINUES PROMPTLY AND AS LONG AS THEY ARE GOING BACK TO ORIGINAL BASES WE'LL CONSIDER THAT THEY'RE FULFILLING THEIR PROMISE.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS, ONE FOR YOU AND ONE FOR MR. SENATOR. THE FIRST QUESTION IS, HOW DO YOU WEIGH THE SITUATION AS OF NOW? AND THE SECOND QUESTION IS, MR. SENATOR, WHAT DIFFERENCE DO YOU SEE BETWEEN THE SITUATION AS OF NOW, AND THE EARLIER SITUATION, SINCE YOU WERE HERE EARLIER ALSO. THANK YOU.

SECRETARY: COULD YOU PLEASE REPEAT THE FIRST QUESTION.

QUESTION: YES, HOW DO YOU WEIGH THE SITUATION AS OF NOW? WHAT IS THE PRESENT SITUATION.

SECRETARY: I CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE SITUATION AS IT STANDS TODAY. THAT IS NOT THAT THE IRAQIS ARE IN A POSITION FOR IMMEDIATE ATTACK BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT. IT IS, MY CONCERN IS ON WHAT THEIR INTENT IS AS INDICATED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF ARMY UNITS THEY SEND SOUTH AND THE FACT THAT THEY DO NOT, TO THIS POINT AT LEAST, HAVE NOT DEPLOYED THEM, REDEPLOYED THEM BACK TO THEIR ORIGINAL BASES. FOR THAT REASON I CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ISSUE. SENATOR WARNER...

SENATOR WARNER: I LEAVE THE SITUATION TO THE SECRETARY BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ADD ONE OTHER DIMENSION. THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD TO MAKE TWO MILITARY MOVES HERE RECENTLY, FIRST IN HAITI, SECONDLY HERE. WHILE THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF DIVISION AT HOME WITH RESPECT TO THE PUBLIC OPINION AND INDEED IN THE

CONGRESS ABOUT THE HAITI OPERATION, THIS OPERATION SEEMS TO BE GATHERING THE STRONGEST SUPPORT FROM OUR PEOPLE AT HOME AND INDEED THE CONGRESS. SO I THINK THE PRESIDENT IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR THE DECISIVE AND SWIFT MANNER WORKING TOGETHER WITH COALITION PARTNERS THAT HE ADDRESSED THIS SITUATION.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, THE RUSSIANS HAVE SENT A DELEGATION TO BAGHDAD, THEIR FOREIGN MINISTER KOZYREV AND OUT OF THIS HAS COME A PROPOSAL THAT THE IRAQIS HAVE AGREED TO ESTABLISH A LINKAGE BETWEEN IRAQI RECOGNITION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF KUWAIT AND LIFTING OF THE SANCTIONS IN SIX MONTHS TIME. WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS IRAQI PROPOSAL?

SECRETARY: I WANT TO DRAW A VERY SHARP DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE MILITARY ACTIONS WHICH IRAQ TOOK TO THREATEN AND DESTABILIZE THIS REGION AND THE MILITARY RESPONSE WHICH WE AND OUR COALITION PARTNERS IN THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL HAVE TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THAT. WE CONSIDER THAT ALL OF THE ACTIONS WE HAVE TAKEN ARE IN RESPONSE TO THE MILITARY THREAT POSED BY IRAQ AND HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE DISCUSSION ON DEBATE ON SANCTIONS. QUITE SEPARATE QUESTION IS WHAT IRAQ NEEDS TO DO TO BE RELIEVED OF THE SANCTIONS. THE ANSWER TO THAT I THINK IS VERY CLEAR--THEY NEED TO ABIDE BY THE RESOLUTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PASSED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND IF THEY FULLY ABIDE BY THOSE THEN THE UNITED NATIONS, I AM CONFIDENT, WILL PROMPTLY RELIEVE THEM OF THE SANCTIONS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, DO YOU THINK THAT IT CAN REMOVE SADDAM IF THE UNITED STATES WANTS THAT? ESPECIALLY AFTER DESTROYING ALL HIS MILITARY POWER? OR IS HE STILL ALIVE AS A POLICY OF KILLING HIM SLOWLY?

SECRETARY: WE DON'T HAVE, A POLICY IS NOT DIRECTED TOWARDS KILLING ANYONE, OUR POLICY IS DIRECTED TOWARD MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THIS REGION. AND THE ACTIONS WE HAVE TAKEN ARE DESIGNED AND CALCULATED TO EFFECT THAT. WHETHER THAT TURNS OUT TO RESULT IN QUICK MILITARY ACTIONS OR SIMPLY A DETERRENT EFFECT, DEPENDS ON THE RESPONSE OF IRAQ. I HOPE AND I BELIEVE THAT THE PROMPT AND FIRM MILITARY ACTION WE'VE TAKEN IN COOPERATION WITH THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO DETER, CERTAINLY TO DETER IRAQ FROM AN INVASION OF KUWAIT, AND WE WOULD HOPE SUFFICIENT TO MOTIVATE THEM TO MOVE THE FORCES BACK TO WHERE THEY CAME FROM. IF THAT HAPPENS, MILITARY ACTION THEN WILL NOT BE, ADDITIONAL MILITARY ACTION THEN WILL NOT BE REQUIRED.

SENATOR WARNER: I THINK THERE'S ANOTHER DIMENSION HERE. WE'RE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ--THEIR WELFARE. I BELIEVE THEY'LL VIEW THIS SERIOUS MISTAKE BY SADDAM HUSSEIN AS ANOTHER BASIS TO RECONSIDER BACK IN IRAQ THE TAKING OF MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS, AND PERHAPS GETTING A NEW GOVERNMENT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, COULD YOU TELL US WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT RIGHT NOW? AND IF YOU'VE

6 2200

FACED ANY PROBLEMS WITH OTHER COALITION MEMBERS?

SECRETARY PERRY: I DON'T FEEL QUALIFIED TO SPEAK, TO REPRESENT THE POSITION OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. I READ THE REPORTS AND THE CABLES ON IT AS YOU DO. I WOULD POINT OUT THAT THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN A VERY EFFECTIVE COALITION PARTNER OF THE UNITED STATES IN MANY MILITARY OPERATIONS, INCLUDING PARTICIPATING WITH US IN SOME OF OUR U.N.-MANDATED AIR FLEETS. I HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE WORKING WITH US COOPERATIVELY ON ANY ACTIONS THAT ARE TAKEN IN THIS AREA AS WELL.

THANK YOU MR. SECRETARY. END TEXT.

~~SECRET~~

6

WASHINGTON POST

Oct. 15, 1994

Pg. 21

Buildup to Counter Iraqis Can Broaden, Perry Warns

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Foreign Service

KUWAIT CITY, Oct. 14—Defense Secretary William J. Perry said today that the United States will continue to send ships, planes and ground forces to the Persian Gulf until Iraq removes heavy armored units from the southern part of the country near Kuwait.

"If Iraq does not comply, Perry warned, U.S. forces may take military action. He cited evidence that up to 10,000 Iraqi Republican Guards are digging in less than 100 miles north of the Kuwaiti border.

Perry said that if the Iraqi forces are not withdrawn, the United States may choose to deploy more troops in the Persian Gulf region than the 30,000 now planned.

"We will not bring our combat troops home as long as Iraq continues to threaten peace and stability in the gulf," Perry said at an airport news conference. "Indeed, if heavy Iraqi units remain in the south, we will expand our current deployment and will consult with our allies about the additional application of force as an appropriate response to the threat posed by Iraq."

Notwithstanding Perry's firm warning here, the sense of crisis has receded noticeably in Kuwait following the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the immediate border zone.

might take in response, Perry said, "We're talking about military action, but I won't go beyond that to describe what form of military action."

In Washington later, a Pentagon official said intelligence reports indicated that the Iraqis "didn't look to be digging in" for an extended stay nor did they seem to be in an "offensive posture." But he said the longer the troops stayed there, the less likely it was that they were simply having some logistical problem, reported John F. Harris of The Washington Post.

U.S. forces in the region include Tomahawk cruise missiles on Navy ships and hundreds of Air Force and Navy warplanes, including many armed with laser-guided bombs. A Pentagon spokesman put total per-

sonnel in the region at 21,668, including 5,800 combat troops.

Perry traveled to Kuwait from Saudi Arabia, where he met with King Fahd and visited American troops at a Saudi air force base in Dhahran. Perry said at a news conference there that the United States would boost its troop deployment even higher than planned if Iraq balks at pulling back its forces.

"We cannot accept that deployment which we consider threatening and destabilizing," Perry said in remarks quoted by AP. "Indeed, if those forces stay in the south, we will expand our current deployment plans and take appropriate action to deal with this threat."

Perry said on arriving in Kuwait, "Only if they move those forces north, only if they truly remove the threat in Kuwait will we terminate our deployment, and only when that happens will we consider a phased draw-

down of our deployments."

Perry subsequently met with a company of support troops at Camp Doha north of Kuwait City, a vast supply depot where the United States maintains tanks, armored vehicles, ammunition and supplies for an armored brigade of roughly 4,000 troops. Many of the tanks are painted green, identifying them as surplus from NATO units in Europe that were dismantled in the aftermath of the Cold War. Ships carrying an additional brigade's worth of armor are due to arrive shortly from Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

"We're not out of the woods yet but it looks like it's working," Perry told the assembled troops. "It looks like we'll be able to avoid a war."

Perry said "with good luck we'll get you out of here and back home in a couple of weeks."

Clinton administration officials appeared eager to keep the pressure on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, especially in light of Russian efforts to broker a deal under which Saddam would agree to the recognition of Iraq's borders in exchange for the lifting of United Nations economic sanctions.

Clinton administration officials had all but declared victory earlier this week when Iraqi forces began their withdrawal. Today's renewed threat of military action follows reports Thursday that some Iraqi armored units had stopped pulling back. During his flight to Kuwait, Perry told reporters traveling with him that a Republican Guard division of about 10,000 troops, tanks and armored vehicles was digging in near Nasiriyah, less than 100 miles from Kuwait, according to the Associated Press.

An armored division can move up to 20 mph, which potentially would put the Republican Guards within five hours' driving time of the oil-rich emirate to the south.

"If they're digging in, we still have problems ahead of us," Perry said on the plane. Asked what kind of action the United States